

Information for Carriers about the Idaho Immunization Assessment

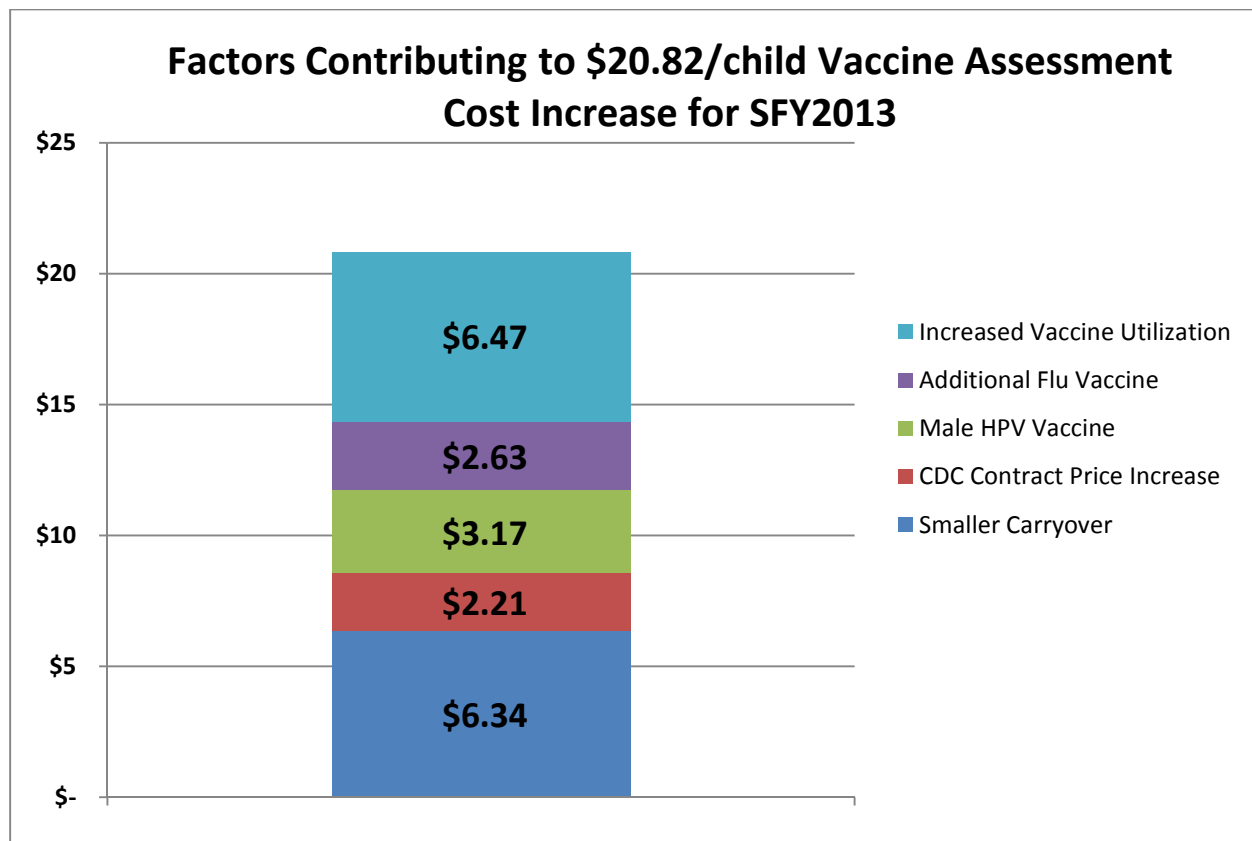
The 2010 Idaho Legislature adopted Title 41 Chapter 60, Immunization Assessment. The Idaho Immunization Assessment funds vaccines for insured children provided by the Idaho Immunization Program (IIP) of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Under this program, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare purchases vaccines for insured children at significant government discounts. Specifically, vaccines are purchased at the “CDC Cost / Dose” detailed in the “Pediatric / VFC Vaccine Price List” published at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/cdc-vac-price-list.htm>. Providers using state-supplied vaccine cannot bill carriers for that state-supplied vaccine.

The legislation also created the independent Idaho Immunization Assessment Board to assess mandatory fees from all carriers covering children in the state of Idaho to fund this program. “Carrier” is defined by the statute as *“any entity subject to regulation by the department that provides or is authorized to provide health insurance or health benefit plans, or that administers health insurance or health benefit coverage or that otherwise provides a plan of health insurance or health benefits; or a foreign insurer who provides health insurance coverage or benefits to residents of this state as certificate holders under a group policy issued or delivered outside of this state.”* Further clarification of this definition is in 41-6002 (2) published at <http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title41/T41CH60SECT41-6002.htm>.

Under the [Plan of Operation](#) , carriers report to the Idaho Department of Insurance the numbers of program-eligible children they cover as of January 31 of each year on or before March 15 of that year. The annual assessment fee notice is sent to all carriers no later than April 15 with a due date of June 15. If the billing is greater than \$50,000, the carrier may request a quarterly installment plan.

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012-13 assessment is \$79.00 per program-eligible child. The increase from the SFY 2011-12 assessment of \$58.18 per program-eligible child reflects increased numbers and costs of vaccines. The graph below shows specific factors contributing to this increase in the per-child vaccine assessment; explanatory notes follow the chart.



Explanation of Categories

- Increased Vaccine Utilization, 31.1% of increase** – Idaho medical providers are ordering and administering more vaccine to “catch up” Idaho children with new and existing national vaccine recommendations, and to meet new 7th-grade vaccination requirements and enhanced childcare and kindergarten vaccine requirements. The IIP distributed 623,774 vaccine doses in the first three quarters of SFY 2011-12, a 12% increase compared with 558,898 doses at the same point during SFY 2010-11. In addition to a new HPV recommendation for males discussed below, several other national recommendations have changed. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) expanded recommendations for use of the Tdap vaccine, recommended a booster dose of PCV13 for children who had only received PCV7, and doubled the recommendation for the adolescent meningococcal vaccine from one dose to two doses. Along with HPV, the PCV13 and meningococcal vaccines are the most expensive vaccines the state program supplies.
- Additional Flu Vaccine, 12.6% of increase** – In previous years, some providers privately purchased influenza vaccine for children under the age of 19; for SFY 2012-13, IIP will supply all influenza vaccine for children to enrolled providers. An increase of \$554,176 in assessment funds for SFY 2012-13 compared with SFY 2011-12 will be used to fund this increased supply of influenza vaccine for all enrolled providers. A list of providers using state-supplied influenza vaccine will be available on the Immunization Assessment Board website at www.doi.idaho.gov.

- **Male HPV Vaccine, 15.2% of increase** – ACIP previously routinely recommended the HPV vaccine only for females, but now recommends routine HPV vaccination of males aged 11 or 12 years and HPV vaccination of older males who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a3.htm>). The only HPV vaccine licensed for use in boys is Gardasil, a 3-dose series currently priced at \$111.96 per dose (\$111.96 X 3 = \$335.88).
- **CDC Contract Price Increase, 10.6% of increase** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) signs new contracts with vaccine manufacturers annually. This year's vaccine costs are an average of 2.8% higher than last year's.
- **Absence of 2010-11 Carryover, 30.5% of increase** – All assessments fund only the cost of vaccines for program-eligible children. There was an unusual surplus of \$1,925,774 at the end of SFY 2010-11 that was carried over to SFY 2011-12 which significantly reduced the SFY 2011-12 assessment from what it would have been without that carryover. This carryover was a result of the Department of Insurance identifying additional carriers doing business in Idaho after the first yearly assessment had been set; therefore more funds were collected during the year than were anticipated at the beginning of the year. The carryover from SFY 2011-12 to SFY 2012-13 is \$587,510; resulting in a smaller reduction in the SFY 2012-13 assessment.

Additional Information

Title 41 Chapter 60 is published at <http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title41/T41CH60.htm>, and additional information regarding the board is published at http://www.doi.idaho.gov/company/immuneassess/immunization_assessment.aspx. Further information regarding the program may be obtained by contacting Sandy Metro at the Assessment Board (immuneassess@doi.idaho.gov or 208-334-4330). Idaho-based carriers are represented by members on the Assessment Board, and are very familiar with the Idaho Immunization Assessment. Representatives from these carriers also may be contacted through the Assessment Board.